

Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials
March 22, 2007 – Meeting Minutes
Red Lion, Port Angeles

The Meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was convened and brought to order by Ron Hopkins, Chair, at 6:10 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

- Debra Alyea
- Scott Baxter
- Alan Doman, Vice-Chair
- Janet Hays
- Ron Hopkins, Chair
- Willeen Denton-Hornbeck
- David Irwin
- Linda Lopez
- John McCallum
- Dirk Muyskens
- Brian Sadden

Commission Members with Excused Absence:

- Don Boggs
- Dale Carlisle
- Jim Clark
- Dorothy Gerard
- Katherine Wade-Easley

Staff Present:

- Carol Sayer, Director
- Teri Wright, Executive Assistant

Ron Hopkins introduced Janet Hays, our new commissioner filling an unexpired term vacated by Kamaria Hightower. Janet Hays gave a brief overview of her background in the Organized Labor arena.

Ron Hopkins read the Opening Statement for the Commission.

Ron Hopkins asked the Commission if there were any changes that needed to be incorporated into the February 22, 2007, meeting minutes. There were no changes requested. John McCallum motioned to approve the meeting minutes and was seconded by Dirk Muyskens. Ron Hopkins called for a vote and it was unanimously passed.

Ron Hopkins stated that there was at least one member of the public present who wished to testify before the Commission. Ron Hopkins read the Procedure for Public Testimony.

Public Testimony was as follows:

Nora Porter is a retired public employee who worked her last position with the legislature. She stated that all legislators are underpaid, but especially the House and

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Senate leaders. The House Majority Leader should receive a stipend in addition to the regular legislative pay. She also believes that other committee chairs should receive a stipend based on responsibilities (major standing committee chairs – Ways and Means/Appropriations, Capital Budget, Transportation, Education). Legislators and teachers are both considered part time, but neither actually works part time. Alan Doman asked her what she considered to be appropriate pay for legislators. She didn't have a recommendation, other than to state that \$44k for a legislator is an embarrassment. She believes the Commission is making progress but that the Legislative branch has always been a neglected branch in the salary setting process.

Ron Hopkins mentioned that there were several local judges present and asked that they introduce themselves. Present were: Judge Marilyn Paja, Kitsap County District Court, Judge Gordon Godfrey, Superior Court Judges Association, Judge Mary Kay Becker, Court of Appeals, and Jeff Hall, Executive Director of the Board for Judicial Administration. They were present to answer any questions posed by the Commission.

Ron Hopkins thanked Ms. Porter for her comments and thanked her and the judiciary for taking time to attend the Commission meeting.

There was no one else signed up for public testimony, so the meeting moved in to a work session.

Carol Sayer gave the following staff reports:

- Our statutory audit findings came out with no exceptions. We anticipate having an exit interview in the near future.
- We are budgeted through the next biennium with a small increase for inflation for building rent, etc. She also stated that the Commission has additional funding in the Savings Incentive Program that can be used for one time expenses.
- There are several new comparative information charts that have been mailed to you as well as included in your meeting folder.

Teri Wright gave the following staff reports:

- Requested that the Commissioners fill out the Profile Data Form and return it to her at their earliest convenience.
- She pointed out new handouts that address legislation being tracked, contacts made to the public, a new list of Input from the Public 2007, and the Commissioner Contact List.
- She requested that Commissioners contact her in the next week if they are planning to fly to Spokane. She must make all flight arrangements.

Ron Hopkins called for a discussion on the leadership issue and asked each Commissioner to comment on their current thoughts:

- John McCallum – Believes that we need to take another look at the position of House Majority Leader.
- Linda Lopez – Supports revisiting the House Majority Leader issue.

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- Janet Hays – Passed on commenting.
- Scott Baxter – Supports adding the House Majority Leader but not adding committee chairs.
- Alan Doman – remains unconvinced. Legislative leaders have stated the stipend program is fine the way it is. Difficult to separate political elements from job elements.
- Debra Alyea – agrees with Alan and too, is unconvinced.
- Dirk Muyskens – believes that we need to leave it as is and stay the course.
- Willeam Denton-Hornbeck – leaders are not compensation experts. We need to look at the differences between positions and their duties. Suggested Cary Randow or Fred Owen study it.
- David Irwin – Agrees with Willeam Denton-Hornbeck and the need to take a look at the whole picture.
- Ron Hopkins – Skeptical – inclined to leave it as is.

Willeam Denton-Hornbeck **moved** that Commission staff contact Fred Owen, Owen-Pottier Human Resource Consultants, to determine which legislative leadership positions have leadership duties, what those duties are, and are they actual positions or just titles in the Senate and House. In addition, Willeam Denton-Hornbeck requested that Mr. Owen provide the Commission with a definition of what governance of the Legislature means and must be completed as soon as possible but not later than the Commission's 2009 salary setting session. The motion was seconded by David Irwin.

The Commission directed staff to contact Fred Owen, Owen-Pottier Human Resource Consultants, to determine his ability to undertake a study to:

- Analyze and define the duties of the leadership positions in the House and Senate; and
- Make recommendations for a legislative leadership stipend structure, including a relative stipend pay schedule.

The study is to include all positions categorized as leadership including but not limited to: presiding officers, majority and minority leaders, caucus chairs, floor leaders, whips, and standing committee chairs and must be completed prior to the Commission's 2009 salary setting session.

Ron Hopkins called for a vote. The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner	Yes	No
Debra Alyea	X	
Scott Baxter		X
Alan Doman	X	
Janet Hays	X	
Ron Hopkins		X
Willeam Denton-Hornbeck	X	
David Irwin	X	
Linda Lopez	X	

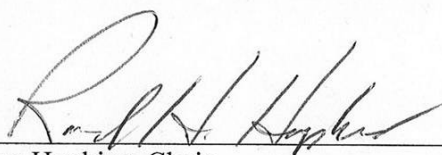
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John McCallum	X	
Dirk Muyskens		X
Total Votes	7	3

Brian Sadden was absent when the motion was voted upon.

Ron Hopkins asked if there were any new insights into the proposed salary schedule and opened it up for discussion. There was no further discussion.

There being no additional topics for discussion Ron Hopkins adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:30 p.m.



Ron Hopkins, Chair

4-19-07

Date